GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:829
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2016
Construction of Culverts and Bridges under PMGSY
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the residents of hilly and rural areas have to take long routes to reach hospitals etc. in case of emergency and similarly students have to spend hours to reach their schools/colleges;

(b) whether there is any proposal to formulate a special scheme/project for the construction of culverts and bridges on the lines of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for the development of hilly/ rural areas and to ease/improve living conditions of the people in hilly and rural areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a) to (c): 'Rural Roads' is a State subject and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is a one-time special intervention of the Government of India to provide rural connectivity, by way of a single all-weather road with necessary culverts and cross drainage structures, to the eligible unconnected habitations in the core network. The programme envisages connecting all eligible unconnected habitations with a population of 500 persons and above (as per 2001 Census) in plain areas and 250 persons and above (as per 2001 Census) in Special Category States (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand), Tribal (Schedule-V) areas, the Desert Areas (as identified in Desert Development Programme) and in Selected Tribal and Backward Districts (as identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs/Planning Commission). For most intensive IAP blocks as identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs the unconnected habitations with population 100 and above (as per 2001 census) are eligible to be covered under PMGSY. PMGSY also permits upgradation (to prescribed standards) of existing rural roads in districts where all the eligible habitations of the designated population size have been provided all weather road connectivity. The Government has also launched PMGSY-II which envisages consolidation of the existing Rural Road Network to improve its overall efficiency as a provider of transportation services for people, goods and services. It also focusses on upgradation of existing selected rural roads (Through Routes and Major Rural Links) based on their economic potential and their role in facilitating the growth of rural market centre and rural hubs.

PMGSY also provides for construction of bridges upto 50 metre span in normal areas and bridges upto 75 metre span in IAP areas. The scheme permits design of the bridges as per need, to serve as Bridge-cum-Bandhara for conserving the rain water and ensuring recharge of underground water table. The construction of rural roads with all necessary culverts and bridges under PMGSY makes communication and transportation easy for the target population.

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